

Claims

11. (previously amended) A method for treating myocardioathy, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a nucleic acid molecule encoding HGF directly to a part of an affected cardiac muscle of a mammal using echocardiographic guidance without thoracotomy.

12. (previously amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises a Sendai virus (HVJ)-liposome.

14. (currently amended) A method of for treating myocardioathy, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a nucleic acid molecule encoding HGF directly into the cardiac muscle of a mammal, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is administered once a week for 8 weeks.

16. (previously amended) A method for treating a cardiac muscle disorder, comprising administering a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide effective for the treatment of the disorder into the affected cardiac muscle using echocardiographic guidance without thoracotomy.

18. (previously amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes HGF.

33. (currently amended) A method for treating myocardioathy, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a nucleic acid molecule encoding HGF directly into a cardiac muscle of a mammal, wherein ~~administration~~ administering comprises administering the nucleic acid molecule under echocardiographic guidance without thoracotomy through a catheter.

36. (previously added) A method for treating a disorder, comprising administering a nucleic acid molecule encoding HGF effective for the treatment of a disorder directly into an affected part of a tissue using echocardiography.

37. (previously added) The method of claim 11, wherein the method comprises administering the molecule encoding HGF using echocardiographic guidance without an incision.

38. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encoding HGF expresses an HGF protein that reduces fibrosis and/or promotes angiogenesis of the cardiac muscle, thereby treating myocardial pathology.

39. (new) The method of claim 16, wherein the nucleic acid molecule expresses the polypeptide, and the polypeptide reduces fibrosis and/or induces angiogenesis.

40. (new) The method of claim 33, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encoding HGF expresses an HGF protein that reduces fibrosis and/or promotes angiogenesis of the cardiac muscle, thereby treating myocardial pathology.

41. (new) The method of claim 36, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encoding HGF expresses an HGF protein that reduces fibrosis and/or promotes angiogenesis in the tissue.